

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19th, 1884.—The administration and the Democratic leaders of the House are, by their attitude on the currency question, giving the country another instructive object-lesson, showing the Democratic idea of statesmanship. Notwithstanding that those financiers of reputation who were heard, either in person or by letter, by the House Banking and Currency Committee, were a unit in condemning, either the whole or a part of Secretary Carlisle's misnamed plan of currency reform, the bill drawn up by Secretary Carlisle is to be railroaded through the House this week, unless Democratic plans miscarry.

It may not be true, although many are inclined to think that it is, that the administration is encouraging the withdrawal of gold from the treasury, in order to frighten objecting Democrats into the support of the currency bill, which as a sop to the overwhelming vanity of Representative Springer, chairman of the committee on Banking and Currency, has been re-christened, the "Springer Bill," but those who are unquestionably authorized to speak for the administration are presenting some arguments to secure votes for the bill that are certainly questionable. The Democrat who expresses an objection to the bill, and nearly all of them do, is told that the bill has not the slightest chance to become a law, but that it is merely intended to convince the country that the administration and the majority of the House are anxious to do something, and that its passage by the House will throw the responsibility for the failure of financial legislation upon the already unpoplar Senate.

It is not necessary to have an extra good memory to recall that similar arguments were used to rush the Wilson tariff bill through the House in a crude form. It is well known that many of the Senate amendments to the tariff bill were begged for by Democratic members of the House who lacked the courage to either propose them or to vote for them in an open, manly way, but were willing to beg for them secretly, and then to pose as having been compelled, against their wills, to accept the Senate bill, amendments and all. That is the sort of business which disgusted the people and brought about the Democratic defeat of last month. There has not been a single important piece of legislation since Congress since it was controlled by the Democrats, into which this sort of tactics was not introduced to a greater or lesser extent. To put it plainly, if not elegantly, the Democrats in Congress have played, and in spite of their better experience, are continuing to play the people for fools.

Even the tottering, God forsaken government of Turkey, which exists merely by the sufferance of the great powers of Europe, does not hesitate to snub this administration. It has refused to allow the U. S. Consul designated for that duty by Secretary Gresham to accompany the Commission, composed of representatives of Russia and Great Britain, which will investigate the massacre of Christian Armenians by Turkish troops. If Secretary Gresham had not been in his present humiliating position, he has already been taken to task by Congress for several of his blunders, and this last one will certainly be heard from.

The Senate will do nothing in the way of political legislation at this session, there is still much talk about a cloture rule, but not as much as there was when the silver repeal bill was pending. Bluffs will be made at the sugar schedule of the tariff law from time to time, but they will have a speculative, not a legislative object.

General Sickles, of New York, is one of the few Democrats in the House who has a brilliant Union Army record, and almost the only Democrat who has had the courage to openly antagonize the pension policy of this administration. His latest remarks, made just previous to the passing of the pension appropriation bill by the House, are alike creditable to him and to every ex-Union soldier. He said: "I want to say right here to-day, for it may be the last opportunity I shall have to say it here, in vindication of my comrades, that that roll of a million names, with so few instances of fraud, is a monument of honor to American soldiers, only less worthy, only less admirable than the heroic services they performed in the preservation of this Union, for which services their pensions are awarded."

Mr. Cleveland is still making extensions of the classified civil service. The civil service reform professions of the administration would be entitled to respect if less were known of the methods in vogue in the departments to get big salaries for Democrats at the expense of good clerks, women as well as men. For instance, a \$1400 woman clerk was compelled to exchange salaries with a \$900 Democrat, and they both do the same work they did before the exchange.

Specimen Cases.
S. H. Clifford, New Cassel, Wis., was troubled with Neuralgia and Rheumatism, his stomach was disordered, his Liver was affected to an alarming degree, appetite fell away, and he was terribly reduced in health and strength. Three bottles of Electric Bitters cured him.
Edward Shepherd, Harrisburg, Ill., had a running sore on his leg of eight months standing. Used three bottles of Electric Bitters, and the sore is healed. He is now as healthy as a horse.



OPERA CLOAK, ULSTER AND DIRECTOIRE JACKET.

In the center is an opera cloak of brown satin brocaded with large poppies with green leaves. The upper cape is of brown velvet with unbleached guipure and jet passementerie. At the right is an ulster with large box buttons and gilet sleeves. At the left is a directrice jacket of black Persian with three large box buttons.

IN WOMANS' REALM

Christmas the Day for Childhood, When the Little People Reign—A Sketch of Mrs. Grannis, the Up-to-Date Reformer—A Glimpse at Her Home Life—Other Feminine Topics.



CHRISTMAS is the children's day, and it is worth any sacrifice to make the day one of joy and gladness for the children.



HERE is no gainsaying the fact that woman in public life has come to stay. Her increasing number of clubs with their concentrated efforts in developing in her an appreciation of the benefits of unity of purpose. By this means she hopes to sweep away all forms of corruption and aid in introducing radical reforms.

The wise parents, knowing how quickly the time of beautiful childhood must pass, cherish all the sweet baby beliefs as long as they can. They tell wonderful tales of Santa Claus, or Kris Kringle, or St. Nicholas—the beneficent Christmas saint is the same under any alias—they repeat and teach the blessed ballad of the "Night Before Christmas," they raise to the dignity of a state ceremony the business of hanging up stockings, and in a general way make the most of the sweet, merry mystery surrounding the great holiday.

There are some people who deprecate the teaching concerning dear old Santa Claus and say that when the child learns that the saint is a myth he loses a portion of his faith in his parents' truthfulness and in their instructions concerning other and more sacred mysteries. The objections seem of little force. If the story of the Christmas saint is told, as are the tales of the fairies, gnomes and other spirits, the child's serious faith is seldom shaken by the gradual awakening to the perception that the beloved Santa Claus is only another myth, a parable, like that of Jack Frost, who paints the colored leaves of autumn with a touch of his chilly finger and looks the lakes and streams by a blast of icy breath.

Children never forget the happy Christmas days of their childhood the presents, the tree, the dinner and the family circle around the fire side, where the Christmas legends and stories are told. It is fitting the birth day of the Christ child should be devoted especially to the children.

Mrs. Levi P. Morton is a rich woman in her own right, having inherited a fortune from her father. She was a Miss Street, and her girlhood was passed amid all the luxury that money could procure. She is a fine musician and a most accomplished linguist. More than that, she is an agreeable and beautiful woman, with charming manners. Her flock of young daughters are equally as interesting and give promise of being ornaments to society when they are "brought out."

One of the brightest women in Washington is the wife of I. S. Bartlett, who is Representative Coffey's private secretary and a well known politician of Wyoming. Mrs. Bartlett enjoys the distinction of being the only woman in the United States to be voted for in a Legislature for United States Senator. She was given the House clerkship of the Wyoming Legislature and when that body engaged in a deadlock over the Senatorship about a year ago the five Populist members cast their votes for Mrs. Bartlett, amid great applause from the galleries.

The marriage of Ethel, eldest daughter of ex-Senator Ingalls, of Kansas, to Dr. Edward G. Blair, of Kansas City, robs her father of a helper who has long been his most valuable adviser and assistant. Miss Ingalls was for years not merely her father's confidential secretary, but his co-worker, counselor and constant literary helpmate. She collected data from which he prepared his addresses and essays; she edited his speeches, directed his literary work and, was to all intents and purposes an active working partner, on equal terms, in all his intellectual enterprises. To a gentleman who called upon Mr. Ingalls while the latter was in the Senate and offered him an extraordinary price for a single lecture, the Senator replied: "I don't know whether I can accept or not until I consult my daughter. It will all depend upon what she says."

The world applauds her in this landable ambition—when she succeeds—and yet all the while it suspects that this sort of training is robbing her of many of the graces of sex and that in all probability, the domestic machinery, for which she personally is responsible, is going at sixes and sevens, its whole atmosphere lacking the breath of home. Somehow, true womanhood and reforms have not yet become synonymous in men's minds and hence it is particularly surprising to learn that Mrs. Elizabeth B. Grannis, a prominent worker along the pathways of reform, is, in her private life, the gentlest and sweetest of women.

Seated in her comfortable study—the real living room of the family before a little old fashioned desk heaped high with newspapers, letters and documents of all description, Mrs. Grannis suggests all the refinement of the New England woman of the long ago, with the added charm of nineteenth century experiences.

Her gown, simple, yet not severe; the charming coquetry of her wavy hair, the infectious merriment of her gay, soft laugh; the clearness of her gentle eyes, never indicate the bold innovations seething in her brain for utterance.

Flowers, books and pictures make up the atmosphere of this den given over to social purity reform, Municipal League affairs and Church Union editorial work, both religious.

When Mrs. Grannis was asked how she had been able to preserve all the softer side of her nature and yet merge herself into so much public life, she answered that the healthful influence of a New England home, the close comradeship of a most companionable father and the judicious severity of a puritan mother were largely responsible.

She declares that the religious bent of her early training has kept her heart ever young, and has made her optimistic and interested in every phase of human life—a fact which none could doubt after a half hour's chat with her.

Lake Erie Seminary and then started a school in Brooklyn, which was only disbanded at time of my marriage in '65.

"The only vacation I had in those years," said Mrs. Grannis, "was when I came to New York to hear Patti sing at the Academy. Beautiful Patti, whose divine voice was a revelation to me!"

While on the subject of the stage Mrs. Grannis bemoaned the fact that music and the drama are not made the strongest allies of good, and waxed eloquent in strongly objecting to the immoral tone of many of the modern plays produced.

She grew righteously indignant too at the indiscriminate use of the delectable gown at public functions where hundreds of persons feed their gaze upon the necks and shoulders of women.

"A becoming and beautiful gown gives us all a thrill of aesthetic pleasure," said Mrs. Grannis, but its design and construction should not absorb the whole time of its wearer I myself, am very fond of needlework and not only planned my first evening gown, but completed it in every detail alone, alone, on the eve of an examination in ecclesiastical history. Yes, I am particularly fond of all forms of woman's work. My brother and sister, who make up my household, since my husband's death, consider me an expert cook and always vote one of my boiled New England diners a huge success."

Lady Henry Somerset knows very little about the luxury of rest. She is an indefatigable worker. In every good cause she is interested, and her interest means practical help. During the last year she held 115 meetings and twenty-seven conferences. She traveled over eight thousand miles and spoke in twenty counties to about two hundred thousand people.

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